

**Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Department  
Holcomb Family**

HOLCOMB

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ARTHUR GARDNER HOLCOMB

b. 1786-1790/ probably 1790  
p. Butte County, N. C.  
d. after 1860 census; probably 1861  
p. Harrisville, Simpson County, MS.

FATHER: thought to be ARCHIBALD/ARCHER HOLCOMB, s/o WILLIAM HOLCOMB and LUCY LITTLEBERRY

MOTHER: CHARITY

- WIFE: 1) NANCY (named in a deed)  
2) POLLY WASHBURN, mother of his ten children;  
died circa 1840, Marion County, MS.:  
a) family legend, b) affidavits by McPhersons,  
granddaughter-in-law, c) *The Holcombs, Nation Builders* by McPherson  
3) SOPHIA M. ROBERTSON - 3 March 1842 Hinds Co., MS.,  
per marriage certificate  
4) SERENA (ROBINS): per pension application stated she  
married GARDNER HOLCOMB, 1846, Covington Co.,  
MS., under the name of SERENA LOWE

[NOTE: This is what I am attempting to sort out - how many times was GARDNER HOLCOMB married and to whom. One census index lists Gardner with a male and two females under 10 on 1820 census; another, with one male under ten. If the former is correct, then we are missing two females].

CHILDREN:

1. M. JOHN GARDNER HOLCOMB, probably the male under 10 on 1820 census. There is evidence of a JOHN HOLCOMB in Marion County, MS., during the 1840's. He was, probably, born in Alabama.
2. F. MARTHA ANN HOLCOMB b. 5 March 1823, Wayne Co., MS., d. 22 September 1897 Covington Co. MS., probably bur. Mt. Zion Methodist Ch. Cem., Jeff. Davis Co., MS. married 8 February 1840 Marion County, MS., [by John Pittman, M.G.] to JAMES BROOME, b. 20 March 1820, Lawrence Co., MS., d. 6 Jan. 1866 Covington Co., MS., bur. Mt. Zion Methodist Cem. [Gardner on Wayne Co. Tax Roll 1823].
3. F. SARAH ANN HOLCOMB b. 3 March 1824, probably Lawrence Co., MS.; d. before August 1870 (her children summoned regarding estate of Gardner Holcomb), bur. Old Lee Cem., Seminary, MS.; m. 21 July 1840 Marion Co., MS., to WILLIAM SOLOMAN COLLUM LEE (his third wife), b. circa 1810; d. 1888-93, bur. Old Lee Cem., Covington Co., MS. [He married

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first Margaret Collins 29 July 1828 and, second,  
Margaret Hood 16 August 1830, both in Marion Co.  
Marriages recorded in Marion Co., MS.]

4. M. LEVI H. HOLCOMB b. 23 January 1825, Covington Co., MS.,  
d. 29 September 1911, Covington Co., bur. Old  
Williamsburg Cem.; m. 8 January 1846, Marion  
Co. to MARY ELIZABETH STOKES b. August 1830,  
d. 14 April 1902, bur. Old Williamsburg Cem.,  
Covington Co., MS.
5. F. CAROLINE HOLCOMB b. circa 1828, Covington Co., MS., m.  
THOMAS ROGERS; they purchased the homeplace  
in Simpson Co. from the GARDNER HOLCOMB Es-  
tate.
6. F. ELIZA HOLCOMB married 1850 in Hancock Co., MS., to  
Robert P. Jones.
7. F. ADALINE HOLCOMB married SAMUEL MILLER who died before  
24 June 1870; she was married secondly to  
HARMON P. MATTHEWS [per Simpson Co. Census  
1870]
8. M. JAMES MADISON HOLCOMB b. 9 June 1833, Covington Co.,  
MS., [based on Tax Roll], d. 12 July 1918,  
McHenry, Stone Co., MS., bur. Coal Town Cem.,  
Lamar Co., MS.; m. 23 July 1859 Covington  
Co., MS., to ELIZABETH JANE HARGROVE b. 28  
August 1842, d. 28 Aug. 1920, Purvis, Lamar  
Co., bur. Coal Town Cem.
9. M. THOMAS BENTON HOLCOMB b. 22 March 1835, Marion Co.,  
MS., d. 3 August 1898, m. 23 March 1882,  
Simpson Co., MS., to BETTIE TABITHA KELLY b.  
25 September 1851, d. 12 January 1918, bur.  
Harrisville Cem., Simpson Co., MS.
10. F. MARY E. HOLCOMB, b. circa 1840, Marion Co., MS.; m.  
ISAAC N. LOWE, b. 2 May 1821, d. 17 August  
1876, bur. Lowe/Page Cem. near Rockport,  
Copiah Co., MS. [MARY E. was 2<sup>nd</sup> wife; ISAAC  
m. RACHEL L. JONES 22 February 1849, Lawrence  
Co., MS.; per 1860 census a child, ELIZA A. -  
probably of 1<sup>st</sup> marriage; also, a 4 mo. old  
son, JOHN G., who was NOT on 1870 census].

ARCHIBALD/ARCHER HOLCOMB probably b. 1767 Bute Co., N.C.; m.  
CHARITY 1785-1789; not found as head of household in NC; probably  
moved to Greenville District 1794; appeared on 1800 SC census  
as being in Greenville District. Sold property there April 1809;  
out of district/state before October 1809. Probably to Franklin  
Co., GA. Served from that area in War of 1812; enlisted 1814.  
On 1820 Franklin Co., MS., census, 1823 Tax Roll for Copiah Co.,

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MS. On 1830 & 1840 Rankin Co., MS. censuses. Died after 1840 Rankin Co. Died intestate; someone filed for letters of administration on his estate. Documentation may/may not be available.

Sons of ARCHER HOLCOMB:

NEVIL HOLCOMB m. 13 June 1822, Franklin Co., MS., KIZIAH EAST

BENJAMIN HOLCOMB m. 1 September 1826, Copiah County, MS., ELIZABETH MULLINS

These two sons were moving along with their father as he moved into Rankin County. It is possible that ARCHER had other children who married in Rankin County.

Though unproven, it's suspected that ARCHIBALD's last child was born in Georgia (Franklin County?) circa 1810. CHARITY would have been approximately 40 years of age at that time.

Per population censuses, census indices, tax rolls, and other records (ARTHUR) GARDNER HOLCOMB was in the following places - one or more times:

Bute Co., NC; Greenville District, SC; Franklin Co., GA., Washington District, M. T. (County, Alabama), Cherokee Co., AL., Wayne, Covington, Marion, Lawrence, Hancock, Simpson, Hinds (during the time frame he was serving as Legislator from Marion) - with an outside chance of Claiborne - Counties, Mississippi.

GARDNER HOLCOMB was a surveyor by profession. Sons Levi H., James Madison, and Thomas Benton were his chainbearers. Was active in getting railroads into South Mississippi. He was also a merchant, farmer, and a slave owner. Served as a Justice of Peace in most of the counties in which he resided. Served in Mississippi Legislature as Representative from Marion County. Especially in Mississippi, he paid a poll tax in every county in which he resided - in so far as has been determined by available tax rolls.

He held church membership at Ebenezer Baptist Church, Covington County and New Union Baptist Church, Hancock County, both in Mississippi. All of his children except two were Baptist.

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P. O. Box 584  
Houma, Louisiana 70361  
31 July 1989

Dear Jean,

Thanks a million for the 1816 Washington County, M. T., Tax Roll which shows Gardner Holcomb as a resident of that area. It helps to clarify several matters.

I agree with you that Gardner was residing in "Alabama Territory" at the time he signed the Petition to Congress. Furthermore, I believe that he was in this general area no later than 1812, more likely 1810-1811. Do you have any suggestions as to where I might find tax rolls - or other records - that might document his presence in the Washington District, M. T., prior to the erection of Mississippi as a state and until he removed himself into Wayne County, Mississippi. (I find it a bit odd that he was not shown paying taxes in Wayne County in 1820 although he was enumerated on the census there).

I have been reading microfilm until my eyes are going to be permanently crossed. In trying to get my abstractions in some semblance of order, I find that there are several that will have to be reread. And I had thought that it was only books that had to be written and rewritten before going to the publisher! No one warned me that the same rule applied to microfilm reading!

Archibald/Archer Holcombe (wife, Charity) is the **REPUTED** father of Gardner; however, I am unaware of any documentation that says it is a fact. There may be none.

From a query: There was **ONE** Archibald Holcomb in Franklin County, Georgia, in 1813, and he served during the War of 1812 (in 1814) from that County. There was **ONE** Archibald Holcomb in Franklin County, MS., in 1820 - in Rankin County in 1830 and 1840 (to say nothing of his stops along the way)! **QUESTION:** Are these two men one and the same man? **QUESTION:** Is he the father of Gardner?

Further, the querist, stated that Gardner married in Alabama, no date or location given. I was about ready to "assign" him a marriage in Washington District; however, in reading Federal Censuses I have not found a single **WASHBURN** moving along with him; as a consequence I am not fully convinced that his first wife was named Washburn.

Someone sent me an unsigned Holcomb "report" from which I will quote: "It is my personal belief that Archibald Holcomb came to Mississippi Territory in the early 1800's as he is recorded in the 1820 census of Franklin County." "Arthur Gardner Holcomb was supposed to have settled in Covington County in the 1830's but I have disproved this entirely." (Underlining mine. Gardner WAS in Covington County according to both census and tax roll reports). "Arthur Gardner Holcomb married the 2nd time SOPHIA M.

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ROBERTSON 3 March 1842." (Supposedly, he was a resident of Marion County during that time UNLESS he married the lady in Hinds County while representing Marion County as a legislator). Census reports show that Gardner was married to one SERENA ROBINS, (a widow). The legend goes that he married her in Marion County after his first wife, Polly Washburn, died in Marion County circa 1840. Polly, Sarah, and Serena add up to three. Were there two or were there three wives? Maybe we will never know. (About two to three inches had been cut off the bottom of the last page. I suppose that it had contained the identification of the compiler of this data).

The printed form of the Mississippi 1820 Census by Irene S. & Norman E. Gillis shows that Gardner had one male in his household under age 10, himself as 26-45, two females under age 10, and a wife age 16-26. For the present I am going to "buy" their "merchandise."

Gardner fathered ten children, four sons and six daughters. To date I have not found anything that identifies that many children for him and the birth dates given are not necessarily correct. Neither is the birth order. I THINK that I have identified the missing daughter; however, the missing son is as yet "unnamed." Though no effort has been extended to identify a possible son there are two men whom I will have to look at. One is a John Holkum, Lawrence County, who witnessed a deed for Gardner in Marion County. A Daniel Holcomb was paying taxes - off and on again - in Covington County during the 1830's. Have not attempted to establish an approximate age for either man which I will probably do the next time I read microfilm. [One Holcomb, "Lur" married 1846 in Marion County; however, I find that it is not recorded in Marie Upton's abstraction of Marion County marriages. Will have to find another source or go to Marion County to read the pages one by one].

There are a couple of years in which Gardner was reportedly in Cherokee County [on Cherokee Nations Land], Alabama. I am now wondering if he may have been there before moving into the Washington District and that there is where he may have married his first wife. My problem is that I do not know of sources to research to prove/disprove this fact. The one person I have asked, whom I thought could have helped me, stated emphatically that there were NO records for the Cherokees in that time frame. Maybe she is right and I am barking up the wrong tree.

**ONE** Archibald Holcomb was out of Greenville District, S. C., between April and October 1809. Knowing that, I am using that as my "time frame" in trying to "place" both men, especially Gardner, from that time until their respective deaths in Mississippi, that is IF I am looking at the right Archibald and IF Gardner was, in fact, his son.

Tentatively, I am planning to spend the week of 29 October thru 4 November on the Coast doing research. I need to "mine" the Hancock County Courthouse if there is anything there to mine.

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Hopefully, I will be able to spend some time in Pascagoula as well. (What are your library hours?) My last visit was so pleasant that I would like, very much, to repeat it. Don't often find persons as helpful as you. I was impressed with how well you knew your library, your sources, and so darned much information right off the top of your head! I certainly enjoyed hearing about the additions that have been made to your facility and look forward to using them.

Can you tell me if there are extant tax rolls for 1850-1862 for Simpson County and circa 1845-whenever for Hancock? (Don't know when he moved to, or departed from, Hancock County; just know that he was there. He was a strange creature.

Gardner was Baptist as were eight or nine of his ten children. I need to locate a "church" for him in all the counties in which he resided. (I was right. He was in Covington County more than once. Although I haven't identified others as yet, Marion is a very good possibility. Still got to read Lawrence County tax rolls and may take a "shot" at Hinds for a couple of off years). I told you that this was a Traveling Man! And he was traveling ALONE, like the Lone Ranger . . . no "wagon trains" for him!

\*only located  
traveling from  
your book

To date I have found nothing to indicate his occupation although he did a little farming. He served in several political offices; but I have found nothing to indicate that he was a civil engineer as printed sources state. Nor nothing about his religious activities. I've got a long way to go. Just hope that I can get all the microfilm read and be prepared to work courthouses by October at the latest.

If you have any suggestions as to where, what to research, please pass your ideas on to me. I am open for any suggestions at this stage of the game. I feel very much like a rabbit hopping down the bunny trail, just trying to keep up, not necessarily catch up. Why, or why did I draw ancestors who had itchy feet and couldn't stay in one place any length of time at any given time?

If this hurricane doesn't get me, I may try to get to Thibodaux sometimes tomorrow. They have some marriage records (books) that we do not have in Terrebonne Parish. Need to get busy "compiling" my "book" of census and tax abstractions, other data I have collected so I will know what I have and what I need.

Hope your eyes haven't given out on you! Will appreciate it if you will keep Gardner in mind while you are doing other research. You just might hit a gold mine!

Thanks for the 1816 tax record. Really appreciate it.

Bestest to you,

Margaret

Margaret B. Miller

504-876-5554

5. which "record"/book do I check to see if he held a political office as justice of peace, etc.,<sup>3</sup>  
Thanks again!

1. Any chance he may have participated in an "India"  
uprising/war?  
2. Any Covington Co., MS., marriage records pre-1850?  
3. Do you have history of Union Bapt. Church  
Hancock Co., circa 1846-1850?  
4. Enclosing abstraction of Joseph  
Parker's children from his will, forgot to add that it  
is filed in Lawrence Co., MS.

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*Holcomb*

P. O. Box 584  
Houma, Louisiana 70361  
7 May 1989

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Dear Pat,

I had hoped that **YOU** would be helping me with Arthur Gardner Holcombe rather than the other way around. I will share what scanty info I have to date, and how all this has come about.

First, with Ball research fast reaching the finis bit (of course, I will **ALWAYS** still be looking for Sampson E., Daniel Warren Ball, etc.) I was casting around for a specific family for my next project. Gardner came about in a most unexpected way as I did not, at the time, even know his name!

One night I was "running" marriages in Marion County for someone and I saw something that caught my eye...a JAMES BROWN married to a MARTHA ANN HOLCOMBE. I immediately decided that the Brown was a misprint and should have been BROOM. I looked around, in the books I have, for a man named HOLCOMBE who could have been the father of Martha Ann. The only one I found then was Gardner. I shot that off to Brent Holcomb in SC. He confirmed to me that Gardner was the father of Martha Ann and that she had married James Broom. I had my first "taste" of the Holcombe line.

I have about six pages of a printed HOLCOMBE genealogy, with very little of it relating to the family in Mississippi. What did catch my eye, however, was that this compiler had Gardner in three different counties for three census years. (I would have dubbed him the Rolling Stone, only I had already assigned that one to Sampson E. Ball)!

Our genealogy section is very good provided one is a Koon-nass or interested solely in South Louisiana. Otherwise, it is lousy. I think we have one roll of microfilm (1840) for Alabama which DOES include Covington County, none for Georgia, Mississippi, or North Carolina. Don't know how many are there but we DO have some SC microfilm (censuses). As a result, I can read Census Indexes, if they are available, but cannot read microfilm for details.

What I have been doing is to gather every thing named Holcombe I can find and throw it into the computer, hoping that I will be able to get them together at a later date.

As of last night, while reviewing "mentally," I **THINK** that I can tell you honestly that most of what I have has to do with BENJAMIN HOLCOMBE, in all probability a brother of my Revolutionary Ancestor. I have found something else, which has not been abstracted; however, I feel quite confident that it is the line of GRIMES HOLCOMB, the cousin who came out of Virginia with the four brothers. If so, Grimes married in VA. and at least his first son was born before the five set out for NC and later into SC. From SC, they went into Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and, I suppose, all points west.

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Neither Gardner nor his father were listed as head of a household in either NC or SC, making it that much more difficult to attempt to retrace their steps.

ARTHUR GARDNER HOLCOMBE was born ca 1790/91 in either NC or SC, depending on who's telling the tale. (I think that the censuses are going to say NC but where in NC is going to be another story). Legend says that he was first married to a Polly Washburn who died in Marion County, MS., around 1840. (Can't prove it by me. I can't find any Washburns anywhere much less in Marion County)! Polly is supposed to be the mother of his children. Secondly, he married a Widow Serena Robbins (born in Georgia) in Hancock County. Funny, he married Serena in Marion in 1840 and again in Hancock in 1850! No marriage record for documentation but he couldn't have done that feat too easily!

Census years: 1820, Wayne County; 1830, Covington County; 1840, Marion County (I haven't found this on a census index; however, it could well be on a census); 1850, Hancock County; 1860, Simpson County. And in between he spent some time in Lawrence County! And that, in a nut shell, is why I decided that I would "work" the Holcombe line, notwithstanding it belongs to Mother and I have done nothing on any of her lines. She accuses me of not caring about any one except those "OLE BALLS!"

I was reading an unpublished manuscript by a man from Oklahoma. In it were some Holcombes who had intermarried with a family that had intermarried with my WARREN line. <sup>#Lamar Co MS</sup> I now think that these are probably the descendants of Levi Holcombe through his son Joel, who was an attorney in Lamar County.

Gardner had a son Levi who, I think, married Mary E. Stokes. Stokes was from Harrison County. Martha Ann married James Broom and Sarah Ann married William Lee.

James Broom was the son of JOHN BROOM & COURTNEY (I'm still looking for a father for her; the reason I keep pecking away on Hardy Miles). Everything that I have seen on John showed him to be in Marion County except... I saw him on a Lawrence County census index for 1820; so take your pick. JAMES BROOM was born 30 March 1820 Marion/Lawrence County; Martha Ann was born 5 March 1823 in Wayne County. They married 8 February 1840, Marion County, and resided in Covington County. (This is where they were when James came to Marion to settle the estate of his father who had died intestate). James died 6 January 1866 in what was then Covington County. I THINK that he is buried at the Mt. Zion Methodist Cemetery in Jefferson Davis County. Martha Ann died 22 September 1897 in Covington County and is buried by her husband.

Sarah Ann Holcombe married William Lee in July 1840 in Marion County. They had one or more children born there before moving to Covington County.

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I saw in one place that Martha Ann was born 1829. That really blew my mind when I knew that she had married in 1840. Marry young, yes; at the age of 11, NO! Guess that helped put another pine knot in the old wood-burner!

Sorry, but I do not know the other children of Gardner's but I am shopping! After the boo-boos I have found, I'm afraid to trust anything until I am able to verify it in one way or another.

We have a farm and trailer house in Marion County where Hubby stays most of the time. Looks as though I am going to have to move in with him awhile and do some research "on site!" Maybe the Library as USM would have something helpful, at least some census microfilms.

I really don't care to read microfilm if I can find another way to solve my problem. In fact it is so bad that I have some lines waiting on microfilm reading for completion and they are still wanting! Guess I will do it as there are absolutely no other way on some of these, like the Polk line. No birth record, no death record, no marriage record. All I have is family tradition.

Isaac Polk, son of Thomas Polk II, was born in SC. In 1807 he sold his gift land and set out for.....I wish I knew! What I do know is that he was in Feliciana Parish, Louisiana, in time to serve in the War of 1812 from this State, and was discharged to WEST FELICIANA PARISH (maybe, St. Francisville). I found him on a church roll in Covington County, 1820. Can you tell me where he was between 1807 and 1820? I don't even know the years in which he was supposed to be in Louisiana. He was married to SARAH WHITE, born in NC, and that is all that I know about her.

Our local genealogy society is tentatively planning a field trip in June to Jackson Barracks. I hope to be able to go and hope that I can find some thing on Mr. Isaac!

Do you know anything about Asenith King? She married Loyd Polk, son of Isaac.

Better put this to bed. Hubby has just come in and can't stay out of here..."I thought you were about finished!"

Hope the bit on Gardner will be of some assist to you. At least you can start a file card on him. And, if you learn anything about these Polks, I would appreciate knowing.

Oh, President James Knox Polk and I share a common ancestor, the immigrant one! Close kin, huh?

Thanks for writing.

Good luck,

*Margot Miller*

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JOHN TYRONE b. 1794 Rutherford Co., TN; Surveyor, cabinet maker, farmer  
Baptist; d. 2 Jan. 1867 at family home (Lawrence Co., MS.), bur. Brady Cem.,  
Jeff. Davis Co., MS.; m: 1 December 1816, Huntsville, M. T. (AL.); s/o  
ADAM TYRONE

MARY MARANDA PARKMAN b. 18 August 1797, Edgefield District, S.C., housewife;  
Baptist; d. 21 January 1871, Lawrence Co., MS., bur. Brady Cem.; d/o JOSEPH  
PARKMAN and SUSANNAH BOYD

CHILDREN:

Jerome C. TYRONE	b. 1818	m. Martha E. Echols
Margaret Tyrone	b. 1820	m. Samuel C. Herring
HENDERSON GRIFFIN TYRONE	b. 8 Dec. 1822	m. OBEDIENCE CAROLINE "CALINE" THOMPSON
Elizabeth Tyrone	b. 1830 (?)	m. John Cooper Mr. Walker Mr. Pounds
Eliza. Jane Tyrone	b. 8 Feb. 1827	m. Matthew H. Carlisle
Amanda Tyrone	b. 1832(?)	m. Lafayette Cannon
Parkman Tyrone	b. 6 Sept. 1843	m. Elizabeth Polk Mrs. Josie Shivers

JOHN ALBERT WATTS b. 8 Aug. 1855, Sumrall, Covington Co., MS.; farmer/Merchant;  
d. 17 Mar 1937; Columbia Cemetery, Columbia, Marion Co., MS.;  
Baptist; m. 8 Feb 1876 Lawrence Co. MS. - near present day  
Prentiss, Jefferson Davis Col, MS.; s/o THOMAS H. WATTS &  
MARY ANN "POLLY" RAMSAY

DOMER TYRONE b. 18 Nov. 1854, Lawrence Co., MS., housewife; Baptist;  
d. 13 Mar. 1940, Columbia, Marion Co., MS.; bur. beside hus.  
d/o HENDERSON GRIFFIN TYRONE & OBEDIENCE CAROLINE THOMPSON

CHILDREN:

Carrie Watts	b. 1877	m. Otis Byrd
JEANETTA LEE WATTS	b. 4 May 1878	m. 29 Dec. 1897 EUGENE ADAMS BALL
Jennie Watts	b. 13 Nov 1880	never married
John Ebie Watts	b. 17 Apr. 1883	m. Bertha
May Watts		m. Harry George
Maggie Watts	b. 24 Jan. 1885	m. Archie Patterson
Hattie Elizabeth Watts		m. Greene Corley Davis
Pearl Watts	b. 17 May 1887	m. Toxey Hall
Emma Watts		m. Tom Tannehill
Robert Watts		m. Elmer
Fred Louis Watts		m. Sarah Rawls
Thomas Henderson Watts	b. 10 Sept. 1893	m. Ruby Brumfield

(Thomas Henderson Watts was the only child b. in Marion County; the others, in  
Lawrence County prior to the removal of the John A. Watts family to Marion Co.)

Jennie Watts established the first church library in the Southern Baptist Convention

John and Domer T. Watts were devout Baptist - so much so that their daughter, LEE  
(md. Eugene A. Ball), did not change her affiliation until AFTER the death of BOTH  
parents, in 1940. The BALLs are Methodist.

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OBITUARY.

In memory of T. J. Halcomb who was borned in South Carolina, Nov 14, 1819. He moved from South Carolina to Wilcox county where he was raised. From Wilcox county he moved to Wayne county, where he lived until his death which took place in January 1897.

Brother Halcombe joined the missionary Baptist church at an early age and lived a constant christian life until his death. He was always found doing what he could for the Master. The church has sustained a great loss in his death, for he was for many years one of its strongest supporters.

His Pastor and all visiting friends always found a cordial welcome at his home. Fifty years of his life was spent in the service of his God, and during his last affection he manifested strong faith in his Heavenly Father, often calling on him for assistance. Our loss is his gain.

A short time after his death there was a memorial service held at his church in honor of him. A large congregation was present and there was every manifestation of love and esteem from those present. He leaves a wife and six children, twenty.

Wayne Co MS News.

1898

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Holcomb Family

Received from Dr. Carla Decker

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Doug Decker, Jr.

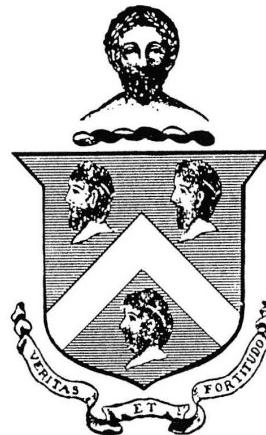
Phone: 228-789-6864

Email: DougDe@telepak.net

# The Family Album

of

Rev. William Benton Holcomb, Sr.  
South Mississippi Minister



*The Holcomb Coat of Arms, since the Third Crusade in Palestine when Sir John Holcomb was knighted by King Richard, has borne the Motto: "VERITAS ET FORTITUDO"—"TRUTH AND COURAGE".*

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**WHY THIS MODERN VERSION  
OF A FAMILY ALBUM?**

"While I was musing the fire burned", said an ancient Psalmist. Likewise, Rowe, Jr. and I sat musing as the fire gradually consumed another year of his birthday candle. His thoughts filtered through dawn-tinted dreams of "when I grow up". But I saw in the flickering light that symbolized the passing of another year, life's evening-tide shadows creeping nearer and nearer me. Perhaps your mood will change with the turning of each page;

but, as you close this album, our hope is—that which blesses, lingers.

A special request came from Mother, almost twenty years ago, to compile a "Family Album" of our closer kin. Along with the request, she supplied some information, pictures, and other material. So, the name retains her suggestion and the booklet her materials.

To our family circle whose addresses now include Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee, Texas, Indiana, New York, and Oregon; but whose forefathers lived in Mississippi for more than a century, we send this Album of Kinship. We remind you these pictures were not posed for publication, but were collected over the years. We reproduce them to stimulate memory and to preserve a record of resemblance. The booklet becomes an object lesson in family cooperation and devotion and without these it could not have been compiled. Also, it is factually true that family wit, humor, philosophy, and religion applied to everyday living have achieved citizenship awards from neighborhood to National level.

One expressed purpose of the "Magnolia Heritage Society" is in a measure the purpose of this Booklet: "To collect and preserve all records of the achievements of our ancestors . . . for our own enlightenment and that of our children, that all may honor, venerate and reverence those who fashioned the past, that we may give to them our unalloyed loyalty and devotion."

To all brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces, and numerous cousins, and especially to my daughter, Mary Gaye; to my granddaughter, Carla; to my son, Rowe Junior and his mother, Maude Evelyn, "The William Benton Holcomb Family Album" is presented as a labor of love.

It is dedicated to the parents who gave nine of us life and who taught us life's deeper meaning.

Sincerely,

Rowe C. Holcomb, Sr., Compiler  
December, 1961



**ROWE JR., MAUDE EVELYN**

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**OUR GRANDPARENTS**

JAMES MADISON HOLCOMB served as a private in Co. F 39th Miss. Conf. Inf. His older brother, LEVI, served as a private in Co. D 7th Miss. Calvary Regt. BENTON, his young brother, served as a private in Co. C 7th Miss. Conf. Regt.



MR. AND MRS. JAMES MADISON HOLCOMB,  
PARENTS OF WM. BENTON HOLCOMB

JAMES MADISON was a farmer and cattle raiser, living at McHenry, Miss. He lived to be 86 years of age and is buried in Purvis, Miss. (Lamar County) by the side of his lifetime companion, Elizabeth Jane Hargrove Holcomb.

Grandmother, a brunette by nature, stamped her likeness on more of the Wm. Benton line of descendants than Madison did. She was a most energetic, industrious person, but I'm afraid she did not "stamp all of us" as definitely in this manner as in looks and size.

The picture below is the first REUNION of James Madison's family. It was held on their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Seated at the extreme right corner is Thomas Holcomb who married Sarah Broome and the next seated Adult is William Benton Holcomb who married Ada Broome. The child in his lap is W. B., Jr., his 7th son and namesake.

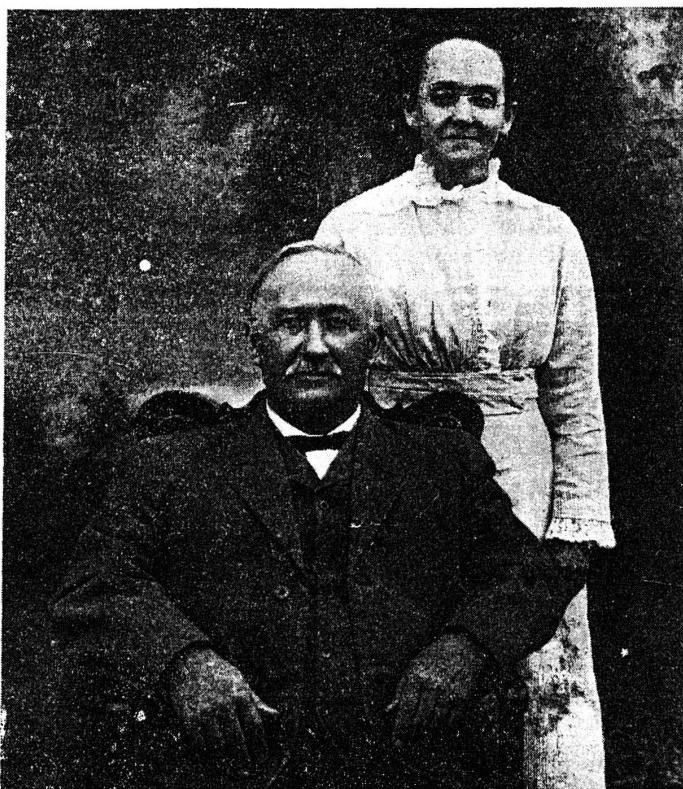


GOLDEN WEDDING—"THE JAMES MADISON HOLCOMB'S"

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**OUR PARENTS  
REV. AND MRS. WILLIAM BENTON HOLCOMB**



William Benton, oldest in the family of 12 children of James Madison, reared 7 boys and 2 girls. He was known through life as an ardent worker for good schools, serving as a trustee in many places, also for good roads, and for good stock to elevate the standard of living in a community. "He lived by the side of the road and was a friend of man", could truthfully be said of him.

The entire booklet will reflect his faith in God, his love for his family and his Service through the Church for all the causes of Christ. His worth can not be evaluated by his three preacher sons because his other sons and daughters have been just as zealous in the Lord's Work.

As a Pastor for 50 years he served the following Baptist Churches: Purvis, Picayune, Poplarville, Lumberton, Wiggins, Quitman, and Wesson. In these areas he, also served some of the great rural Churches. He retired in Brookhaven and, while attending the Lincoln Baptist Association, died suddenly on the lawn of Mission Hill Church, October 18, 1930, his 53 wedding Anniversary. His son, Rowe, has conducted two Revival Meetings in Mission Hill Church and there met several people who were present the day of his father's death.

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**GRANNY**

This entire booklet could never properly evaluate the Five-Talent-Mother who gained five other talents by diligence and sacrificial service and, who at 96 years of age, heard the Master say, "Well done thou good and faithful servant enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

"My children", she said, "Got too heavy for my lap, but will never grow too heavy for my heart" is an example of her keen mind at an advanced age.

No attempt will be made by the writer to describe the merits of the Mother of Nine children, all of whom lived to be grown. Each one privileged to view her picture will tell his version of her wonderful life.

Shown below are John Marcus and Mary Ann Blackburn Broome, parents of Ada, who married W. B. Holcomb and of Sarah, who married Thomas Holcomb, brother of W. B. (They are seated near each other in the reunion picture.)

James Broome, a brother of John Marcus, married Martha Holcomb, sister of Levi, Madison, and Benton Holcomb (see Chart). Many descendants and relatives of John Marcus, now, live in Marion and Forrest Counties.



**ADA BROOME HOLCOMB,  
WIFE OF W. B. HOLCOMB**



**JOHN MARCUS BROOME AND MARY ANN BLACKBURN BROOME,  
PARENTS OF ADA BROOME HOLCOMB**

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GRANNY AND GAY — Note "The Orchids"

The Birthday cake reveals the occasion, but there is nothing in evidence to reveal that it is Granny's 90th Birthday.

A Special event is never required for a visit at Gay's. But, just before, on, and after April 14th was a MUST for many years—FOR THAT WAS GRANNY'S BIRTHDAY! Gay held open house most all afternoon on Granny's 90th and it remained the most talked about of all her anniversaries.

Memories flood my heart and mind as I recall returning to Mississippi in 1939 and for 20 years being one of the group to help celebrate the Happy Birthday. Some could tarry only a few hours, others spent the day and the ones from Tupelo, usually, remained over night due to distance traveled and, frequently, the ladies went on a buying spree in New Orleans.

A trip in Mid-April so far south as Bogalusa assures one of Redbud, Dogwood, and numerous other wild-flowers all along the way in a beautiful profusion of nature's glory.

It doesn't seem amiss to recall these memories in connection with the picture above, but deep inside it hurts because those Happy Occasions can't be repeated.

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**FRONTIERSMAN**

ALFRED GARDNER HOLCOMB, born in North Carolina in 1786, was a bold frontiersman who chose the young state of Mississippi for his home. His large family was completed prior to the U. S. Census of 1840 and his residence then was Marion County. He likely never heard of "Sir John" being knighted nor that his remains rested in Abbey Church of Dorchester, one of the oldest in England, but he lived in the spirit of the crest "Truth and Courage".

In my files is a letter from Mrs. L. D. McPherson of Washington, D. C. dated July 1942, regarding Arthur Gardner and from it I quote the following, "Arthur Gardner Holcomb of South Mississippi was known to have a brother Hezekiah of South Carolina and later of Jackson, Mississippi. The generations of all these are filling out in our book as sons of Kinchen, son of William, son of Richard II, son of Richard, son of William Hardy Holcomb immigrant to Virginia before 1680 A.D." She further refers to him as a Civil engineer, planter and railroad builder.

The "Holcomb Blaze" which constituted a survey through the virgin pine forest of South Mississippi became quite famous and remained the well traveled road to the Gulf Coast until the railroads were built. Arthur Gardner made the survey with sons, Levi and Madison, working for him as chain men.

Another bit of information comes from Thomas Luther Holcomb as follows. Dr. L. M. Dampeer, an early day physician upon leaving school to establish his practice met and boarded with Arthur Gardner Holcomb for about two years. Advanced in age, Dr. Dampeer had an interview with Luther and told him many fine things about the religious life and Christian influence of Arthur Gardner and confirmed the facts quoted below.

All these items are well authenticated. This lengthy quote was printed in the *Baptist Record* of Mississippi, Thursday, January 3, 1918. It is written by Rev. O. D. Bowen whose father Elder Philip P. Bowen won Arthur Gardner Holcomb to the Christian faith and membership in a newly organized Baptist Church in Hancock County. Mrs. P. I. Lipsey, Sr., daughter of O. D. Bowen, found this article among her father's papers and mailed it to W. Edgar Holcomb of Jackson, who has supplied me with the original for use in this booklet.

Elder Philip P. Bowen was duly appointed by the Home Mission Board of Southern Baptists as a Missionary to the Gulf Coast Country in 1850. "Among the converts to Christ was a Mr. Gardner Holcomb, who resided near the center of Hancock County. The Missionary had an appointment to preach in the home of Mr. Holcomb and neighbors gathered to hear him. The services were held in the gallery of the

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home and a barrel with a cloth spread over the top was used as a pulpit. Mr. Holcomb professed faith and later was baptized and became a member of the New Union Baptist Church.

"Brother James Madison Holcomb, the only surviving member of the family of Arthur Gardner Holcomb, now 84 years old, and who furnished this information, has 12 children. Eight sons and four daughters. All of them now have families, many of whom are members of Baptist Churches.

"Of the sons of Brother James Madison Holcomb is Elder W. B. Holcomb, known and loved by the many among whom he has labored as pastor in Southeast Mississippi. This man of God with his noble, faithful wife are the parents of 9 children, seven of whom are living, six sons and one daughter.

"Elder H. R. Holcomb, the eldest has occupied pastorates with success. His special gift from God is that of a flaming evangelist whose work God has crowned with abundant success.

"Elder T. L. Holcomb, known as one of our most gifted pastors is also endowed with the spirit of evangelism and his meetings have been greatly blessed of God. He has just resigned as pastor at Pontotoc to accept the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Columbus.

"Prof. W. E. Holcomb the youngest of this illustrious trio has just served four years as Sunday School Secretary and Secretary of the B.Y.P.U. for our Baptist State Convention. He is now the vice-president of Mississippi Woman's College, Hattiesburg.

"Here closes this brief historic sketch, and please note that this trio of elect brothers are the great-grandsons of ARTHUR GARDNER HOLCOMB who was converted 67 years ago"—Signed O. D. Bowen, Gulfport.

(Your writer's comment—I have no desire to dim the luster cast by these brothers nor do I feel left out—I just don't admit maturity of "age and wisdom" in 1918.)

*Baptist Record*, August 7, 1952—From the column "50 years Ago" by Rev. J. L. Boyd, Sr.: "The Green Creek Church near Hattiesburg closed a very successful revival meeting with 52 additions, 39 of them for baptism. Pastor A. J. Rogers assisted by Rev. W. B. Holcomb."

*Baptist Record*, June 11, 1953—From the column "40 years ago" by Rev. J. L. Boyd, Sr.: "Pastor W. B. Holcomb of the Quitman Church reports 42 additions from a protracted meeting in which he was assisted by his son, Evangelist H. R. Holcomb."

*Baptist Record*, "Pastor John H. Buchanan reports "The best meeting ever held in Booneville Church," in which Rev. T. L. Holcomb of Yazoo City did the preaching. Results: 31 additions, 21 for baptism."

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SIX GENERATIONS IN PANORAMA

1. Levi H. (M) Mary E. Stokes

2. Elizabeth (M) Jones

3. Martha (M) James Broome

4. Adeline (M) Harmon Mathis

5. JAMES MADISON (M) ELIZ. JANE HARGROVE

ARTHUR GARDNER  
HOLCOMB

(M)

POLLY WASHBURN  
(D. 1840)

6. Thomas Benton (M) Betty Kelly

7. Caroline (M) Thomas Rogers

8. Mary Eliz. (M) Isaac N. Lowe

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(LEVI H.)

1. Julia	(M)	Jesse Reid
2. Martha	(M)	Carson Robertson
3. Samuel	(M)	Minnie Burkhalter
4. Gardner	(M)	Late in Life
5. Fannie	(M)	Robert McRainey
6. George	(M)	Mollie Stevenson
7. James	(M)	
8. Benton	(M)	Lowry
9. Walter (Died Young)		
10. Louanna	(M)	T. Whitaker Sullivan
11. Joel	(M)	Lelia Bailey

(JAMES MADISON)

1. William Benton	(M)	Ada Olena Broome
2. Thomas M.	(M)	Sarah Broome
3. Laura	(M)	Abner Bond
4. James Gardner	(M)	Sarah Elizabeth Purvis
5. Mary Caroline	(M)	Jeff Davis Bond
6. Benjamine Charles	(M)	Lelita C. Baxter
7. Monroe Napoleon	(M)	Mary Purvis
8. Alice Dean	(M)	James Thomas Purvis
9. George Washington	(M)	Birdie Kate Hudson
10. Ida	(M)	Will D. Smith
11. John Ambrose	(M)	Winnifred Butler
12. Gabriel Vanarsdel	(M)	Eunice Marcinia Boone

(THOMAS BENTON)

1. Nina T.	(1st M)	Sebrin
	(2nd M)	O. E. Little
2. Thomas Oliver	(M)	Lost W.W.I.
3. John Peyton (Rev)	(M)	Ruby G. McIlwain
4. James Gardner		
5. Mary		
6. Daniel Charles		

(MARY ELIZ.)

1. Daniel Butler	(M)	Martha McCalip
2. Susan	(M)	Simeon B. Waddell
3. Martha	(M)	James Williams
4. William Benton	(M)	Blanche Page
5. John (Died Young)		
6. Julia	(M)	Walter Guess
7. Carrie	(M)	Tom Hunter Smith

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1. Harmon Robert (M) Susie Calhoun

2. Thomas Luther (M) Willie Jenkins

3. Eugene E. (Accidental Death)

4. Holly Vernon (M) Mamie McGee

5. Mary (Mollie) Eliz. (M) Robert Louie Criscoe

WILLIAM BENTON  
HOLCOMB

(M) 6. William Edgar (M) Sunshine Kirkland  
ADA OLENA BROOME (2nd M) Abbie Pegues

7. Lola Gay (M) James Alex. Box

8. Rowe Conwell (1st M) Mary Franklin  
(2nd M) Wilma Malone  
(3rd M) Maude Evelyn Farrar

9. Wm. Benton, Jr. (M) Mary Pegues

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1. Calhoun	(M)	Mary Frances Haley	1. Mary Sue
2. Eugene	(M)	Elizabeth Coleman	1. Gene
3. Susie O.	(M)	Richard Smith	1. Sidney Sue 2. Richard Jr. 3. Jean
4. Harmon R., Jr.	(M)	Sylvia Maddox	1. Harmon R., III 2. Pamela

1. Luther Jenkins	(M)	Elaine Park	1. Henry J. 2. Jan
2. Louise	(1st M) (2nd M)	W. E. Davis Jimmy Hall	1. Bill

1. Harmon Robert	(M)	Pauline Lemon	1. Hazel Maye 2. H. Robert, Jr.
2. Holly V., Jr.	(M)	Bonnie Strahan	1. Bonnie Sue 2. Candace 3. Jeannie

1. Sunshine	(M)	H. M. McLeod	1. H. Milton, Jr.
1. Abby Hellen	(M)	C. R. Jones	1. Rowland
2. Jean Kirkland	(M)	Richard Turner	1. Richard, Jr.
3. Betty Jo	(M)	Ross Bass	1. Ross, Jr. 2. Robert Holcomb 3. Eliz. Kirkland
4. Wm. Edgar, Jr.	(M)	Betty Cabaniss	1. William E., III

1. James Alex, Jr.			
2. Benton Holcomb	(M)	Sallie Yates	1. Benton H., Jr. 2. John William

1. Mary Gaye	(M)	R. C. Eickler, Jr.	1. Carla Elise
2. Rowe C., Jr.			

1. Maralyn	(M)	James M. Hussey	1. Susie Gay 2. Mary Marla
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DAD'S YOUNGEST BROTHER



MR. AND MRS. GABE HOLCOMB AND DAUGHTERS,  
MRS. REGINA BATTE AND MRS. MODENA STRIBLING

A special word of thanks is due Uncle Gabe and Aunt Eunice for several of the pictures used and, also, the verification of numerous dates. He and the writer have the same birthday, only he has 15 more years "for which to be thankful".

The writer repeated the marriage vows with them on the 50th Anniversary of their wedding and W. E. Holcomb present for the special occasion offered a beautiful prayer.

Uncle Gabe is the remaining survivor of the twelve children of James Madison Holcomb, son of Arthur Gardner Holcomb. There are three other surviving grandchildren of Arthur Gardner. Rev. John Peyton Holcomb, son of Benton is now retired and lives near Hattiesburg. Mrs. Julia Guess of Brookhaven and her sister, Mrs. Carrie Smith of Monticello are the daughters of Mary Elizabeth, the youngest sister of James Madison. Recently, Mrs. Guess showed me a picture of her mother and she and our grandfather resembled a great deal.

**GOLDEN WEDDINGS IN THE FAMILY:**

- "The James Madison Holcombs"
- "The William Benton Holcombs"
- "The Gabe Holcombs"
- "The Harmon R. Holcombs, Sr."
- "The T. Luther Holcombs"

(Three of these are pictured in this booklet)

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**EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ATTENDED**

Baylor University	Pacific University
Colgate - Rochester Seminary	Peabody College
College of William and Mary	Southeastern College of Louisiana
George Washington University	Southern Bap. Theological Seminary
Harvard University	Southern Methodist University
Judson College	Southwestern Theological Seminary
Louisiana Baptist College	Southwestern University
Louisiana State University	Stephens College
Millsaps College	Texas A&M College
Mississippi College	Tulane University
Mississippi State College for Women	University of Arkansas
Mississippi State University	University of Colorado
Mississippi Woman's College	University of Mississippi
Moody Bible Institute	University of Oklahoma
North Texas State College	University of Oregon
Oklahoma Baptist University	University of Seattle
Oregon State University	University of Texas
Oxford University—England	Vanderbilt University
	Washington and Lee University

**INSTITUTIONS CONFERRING HONORARY DEGREES**

Carson and Newman College  
Howard Payne College  
Mercer University  
Mississippi College

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**HARMON ROBERT HOLCOMB, SR.**

Pastor — Evangelist — Bible Teacher — This entire booklet could be written about this fine family, but space limits us to the basic information. Harmon had the ability and training to major in the three fields. He preached more often over a longer period of time than any preacher known to the writer. His ministry was Christ centered, Church honoring, with Biblical Authority expressed in simplicity and sincerity. Sermon material ranged from the simple Gospel Story to deep prophetic Studies.

Early pastorates were Laurel and McComb. He then became an Evangelist for the Home Mission Board of Southern Baptists. Mansfield, La., and Tupelo, Mississippi. A book of his Sermons was published during the Mansfield decade under the title, "New Testament Fires in Old Testament Forest". His ministry closed at Tupelo after a pastorate there of almost 30 years. The first 3-year summary shows 392 additions with a gain in Sunday School of 400. A 20 year Summary shows 2231 additions or more than 2 per Sunday for the score of years. He led that Church in rebuilding after the Tornado and again after a disastrous fire.

Harmon's companion beyond a half century, Susie Calhoun Holcomb, is still serving as faithfully with her distinctive talents as he did. Her Sunday School Class of "boys" and her work with R. A.'s set new records. She has, also, been a great civic leader. Susie has held "Open House" for Church members and guests through the years. At her "Coffee-time" fellowship periods, I have met a cross-section of most all trades, vocations, and callings. Having traveled extensively and mastering the information afforded by such travel, she is superb as a conversationist.

On the pages are three Harmons—father, son, and grandson. Harmon like his Dad, named his last son Junior. Dr. H. R., Jr. heads the Department of Religious Philosophy at Colgate-Rochester in Rochester, N. Y. He has traveled abroad, as have several others of the family, but the privilege of a year's study makes his worthy of special mention. He married Sylvia Maddox of Tupelo and, besides Harmon, III, they have a daughter, Pamela who appears in the Grand and Great Feature Section.

Gene was an accomplished Historian and writer. He passed away prior to his father's death. He and his wife, Elizabeth Coleman Holcomb of Tupelo, have one son, Gene, Jr. He grew up a favorite of Harmon Sr., his grandfather, and surely the tie will be a rich blessing all through life.

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**REV. AND MRS. H. R. HOLCOMB, SR.**

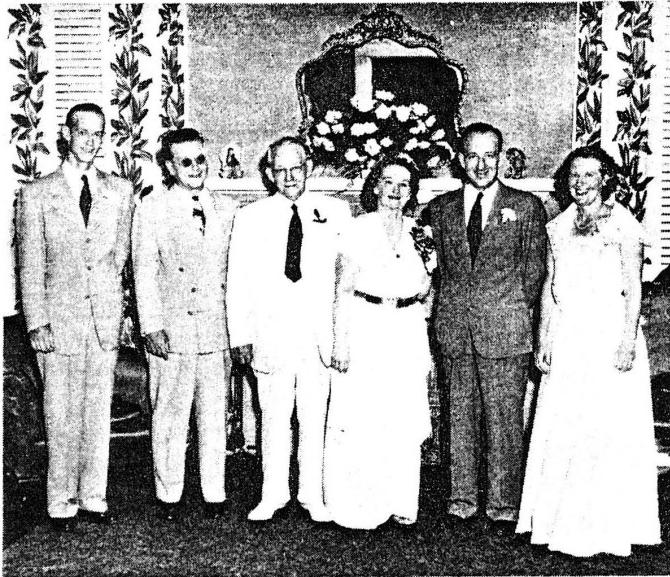
Later pastorates were Waycross, Georgia, Mansfield, La., and Tupelo, Mississippi. A book of his Sermons was published during the Mansfield decade under the title, "New Testament Fires in Old Testament Forest". His ministry closed at Tupelo after a pastorate there of almost 30 years. The first 3-year summary shows 392 additions with a gain in Sunday School of 400. A 20 year Summary shows 2231 additions or more than 2 per Sunday for the score of years. He led that Church in rebuilding after the Tornado and again after a disastrous fire.

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H. R., JR.; GENE; HARMON, SR.; SUSIE; CALHOUN; SUE

Sue, at an early teen-age, assisted her Daddy in Revivals by conducting Story Hour for all pre-school children. She and her husband, Richard Smith, live in Franklin, La. He works for an oil co. as a driller. Their three children are shown in the Feature Section.

Calhoun, the eldest son, married Mary Frances Haley. They reside in Jeffersonville, Ind. He has a responsible position as Stock Manager for Ford Motor Co. in Louisville. He is a deacon and Bible teacher in his Church. Mary Sue, an only child, is a lovely person. See her picture in the Feature Section .

As this is written, Mrs. H. R. Holcomb, Sr., is visiting Calhoun and family for the Thanksgiving season. We recall with pleasure being their guests during the Southern Baptist Convention in May 1959.



HARMON R. HOLCOMB, III

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THOMAS LUTHER HOLCOMB



DR. AND MRS. T. L. HOLCOMB

Luther is probably the best known of the Holcombs. His pictures have appeared in numerous periodicals and his signature is on many certificates of Sunday School Teachers. His messages are deeply Spiritual and the kind that stir to action. They have become the channel of blessing to multitudes over the nation and were graciously received by the soldier boys in France in World War I and by the thousands attending Southern Baptist Convention. In 1934, he preached the Annual Convention Sermon at the Fort Worth session and as Executive Secretary of the Sunday School Board for 18 years appeared before the Convention annually with his report.

His abundant energy combined with good health permits him to remain very active. He is loved by Mississippi people and especially in Durant, Yazoo City, Pontotoc, Columbus, and Columbia where he served as pastor. While in Durant he married Willie Jenkins, a lovely local girl from a prominent family. The old home has remained in the Jenkins' family possession and its beautiful furniture speaks volumes of the culture of long ago.

Fifty years of Christian Service carried the couple to Sherman and Dallas, Texas, to Oklahoma City and Nashville, Tenn. Then back to Dallas for retirement. Your writer visited them frequently in most of these cities. Every association with them became a blessing and a lovelier family would be hard to find.

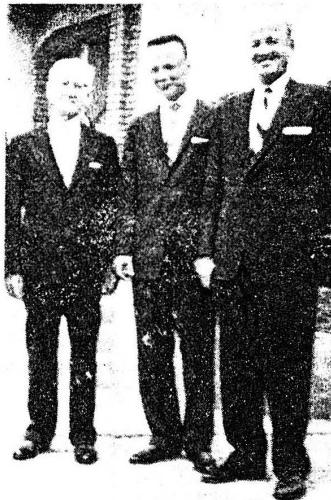
Dr. T. L.'s great faith was tested in February, 1961, when he lost his companion, Willie Jenkins Holcomb, while they were guests in the home of her birth at Durant, Miss. We were with them in the final rites. His present intercessory Prayer Ministry is rich in spiritual values.

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Dr. Luther Jenkins Holcomb, son of T. L. has perhaps traveled more extensively than other Holcombs. In his early ministry, he journeyed to the Holy Land, Egypt, and much of Europe. Other trips and longer stops in Europe came later. He, also, conducted a Preaching Ministry in Korea and other areas from the Pacific route. He was among the first well known Youth Revival Workers, writing a book on the subject. He has been pastor of the renown Luther Rice Memorial Church in Washington, D. C. and is presently Executive Secretary of the Greater Dallas Council of Churches. He with Elaine, and the children, Henry and Jan, reside in Dallas. Henry is shown in the "Three Generations of Holcombs" and Jan is in the Feature Section.

Louise and family live in Houston. After the death of Bill Davis, Sr., she eventually reestablished her home and is now Mrs. Jimmy Hall. Her son, Bill Davis, Jr. is attending Texas A&M. His picture is, also, in the Feature Section. Mr. and Mrs. Hall have visited in Hazlehurst and we could wish for them a permanent residence here, especially, since Louise so definitely represents the "Old South" in beauty and culture.



THREE GENERATIONS  
T. L., HENRY, AND L. J.



LUTHER JENKINS, LOUISE, SISTER WILLIE, AND THOMAS LUTHER

(Page 17)

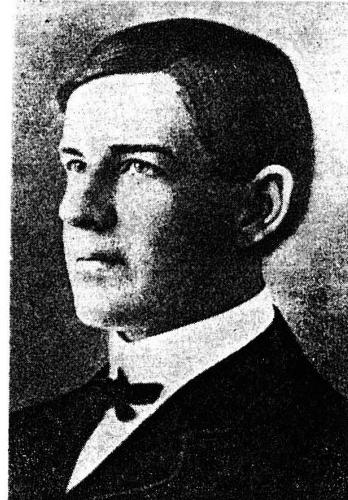
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EUGENE E. HOLCOMB

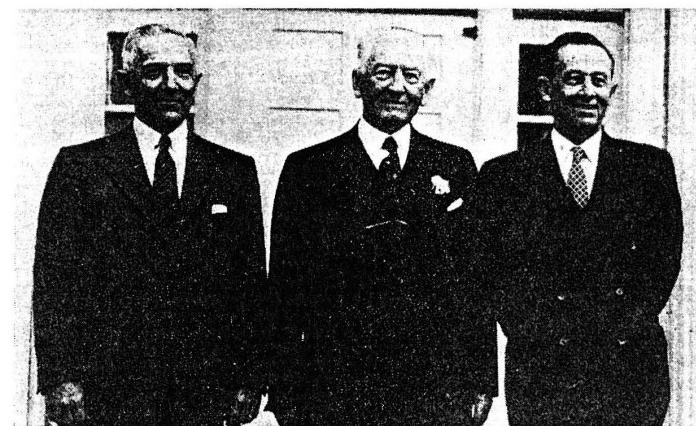
EUGENE E. HOLCOMB, third son of W. B. Holcomb, as described by his brother, Luther, was tall, fair, handsome and brilliant. He lost his life in a lumber mill accident at Wiggins, Mississippi, when just 20 years of age.

He was classified as a Junior at Mississippi College and had dedicated his life to the Gospel Ministry and Foreign Missions. Time has never fully erased the grief of his sudden home going.

If I had the privilege of telling him about this page, I would say, "Gene, since you didn't live to rear a family, we have placed your own loved ones about you. We have selected a program, representing Clinton, home of the College you loved. The theme of the morning was "Brothers' Hour" at a Great Evangelistic Conference. Perhaps your life made this program possible."



EUGENE E. HOLCOMB



EDGAR, LUTHER, ROWE

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**MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST EVANGELISTIC CONFERENCE**

Clinton, Mississippi

Thursday, January 21, 1943

W. E. Holcomb, Jackson, Presiding

9:00 A.M.—Praise Him!

Prayer—H. R. Holcomb, Tupelo

9:15 A.M.—Message—Zeno Wall

9:55 A.M.—Brothers' Hour—

R. C. Holcomb, Kosciusko

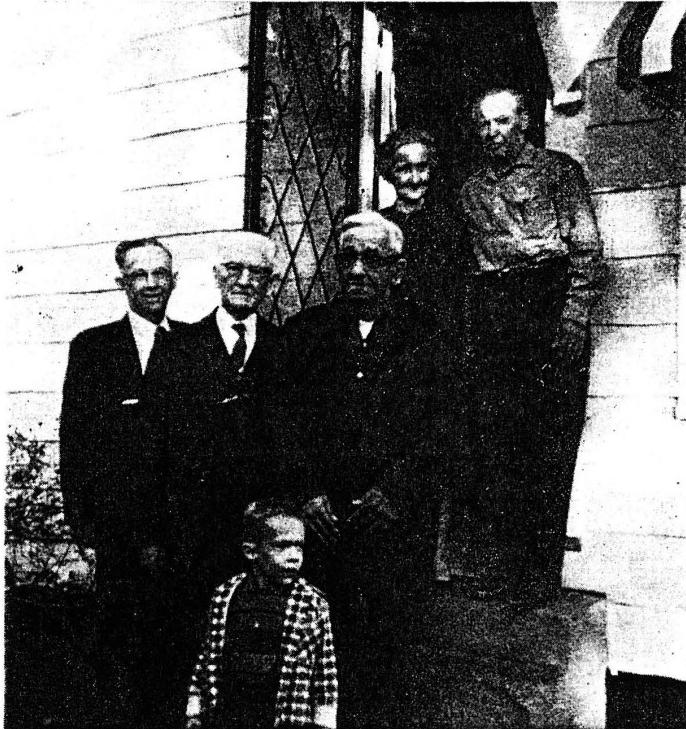
T. L. Holcomb, Nashville

11:15 A.M.—Song

11:20 A.M.—Message—George W. Truett

"God Be With You 'Till We Meet Again."

"Gene, after you left us, Dad removed your chair from the family circle and told us to all move in a little closer. AND, we have continued to do that very thing through the years. Within these two pictures are your four living brothers, your only sister and your only brother-in-law. As time marches on, we will form the circle anew over on your side of life."

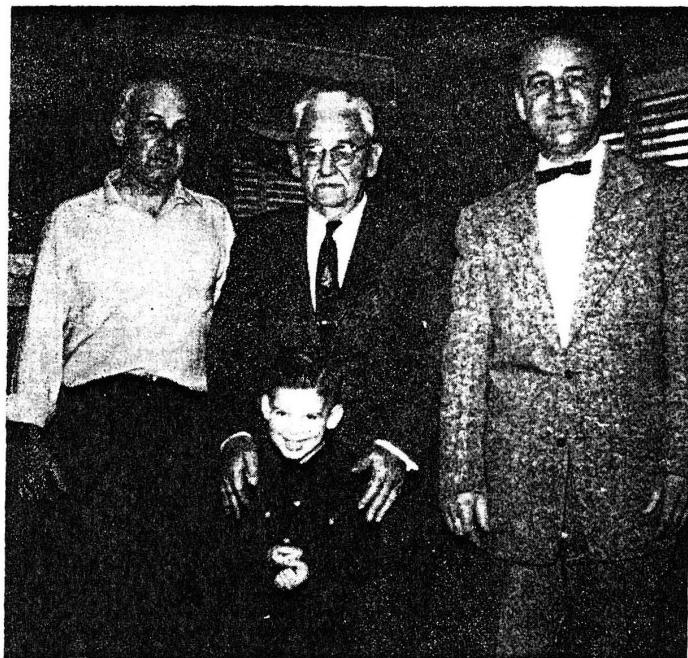


A Typical scene at Bogalusa—Gay and Jim are holding the door wide open for a group of Holcombs.

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THE OREGONIAN HOLCOMBS



"BOB", HOLLY, SR., HOLLY JR., AND ROBERT, JR.

All in the picture except young Robert are Oregonians by choice, the adults having been born in Mississippi. Now both families live in the Greater Portland area.

Holly and Mamie were married in Quitman and continued to live there where he held a responsible position with the Mississippi Lumber Co.

In the mid-twenties, however, they moved to Vernonia, Oregon from Lumberton, Mississippi. He continued in the Lumber Mill Business in Vernonia for some 30 years, until retirement. He was skilled to the point of a perfectionist in dressing rough lumber to market specifications. He was, also, efficient in knowing his employees and aiding them in reaching their maximum capacity. He was happy when men and materials responded by yielding their best.

Many fine things could be said about Mamie and how easily she adjusted to being a genuine member of the Holcomb family. To me, she was BRILLIANT, being able to do all my problems in Algebra. She was an individualist, who loved living up to the Golden Rule, but who expected you to at least make an effort to do the same.

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Holly and Mamie made several trips back South together and the kin would come by the dozen to get to be with them. Mamie passed away in May, 1941 and is buried in a beautiful cemetery in Vernonia, Oregon. Holly has never reestablished his home life.

After retirement, Holly made a prolonged visit in Bogalusa to be with Mother in her declining years.

His most recent visit was in early spring of this year, 1961. This, from our view point, was one of his best for we got to be with him almost enough to have made a "Confederate" out of him, this being Centennial Year.

We were amazed at the fine manner in which he adjusted to retirement. We think of him as having the best philosophy of living and the least fear of dying, as one who makes close friends the quickest, uses repartee the wittiest, and registers more genuine gratitude over minor matters than anyone we know. In fact he comes mighty close to living up to practical requirements of religion as taught by James in the New Testament. His close reading of current events, editorials, and all sports keeps him ever-ready as a conversationalist. Having participated in baseball in his younger days, you can count on him being near a radio or TV if a baseball game is on the air.

Harmon Robert "Bob" is an excellent salesman of heavy mill equipment, covering a wide area of the far Northwest and on some trips has persuaded his Dad to travel with him. He married Pauline Lemon and they have two children.

Holly, Jr. from all reports could have been a professional ball player, golfer or pro in other branches of sports. Uncle Sam used him extensively in flying the Pacific during World War II. He is, now, an area officer on the State Patrol. He married Bonnie Strahan and Holly makes his home with them and their three children.

The grandchildren are shown in a group picture along with others near the close of the book. We wish we could know them and their mothers better.

The only important omission regarding the family is a super-canine pet that Holly, Sr. declares is smarter than any Holcomb in the booklet.

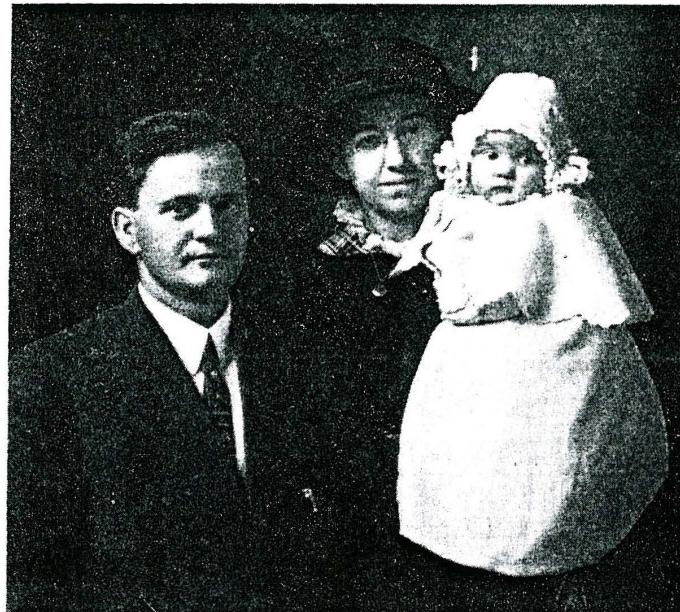
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MRS. MAMIE McGEE HOLCOMB

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ALL MUSICIANS



MR. AND MRS. R. L. CRISCOE, AND DAUGHTER, SUNSHINE

If anyone ever said MARY ELIZABETH HOLCOMB, it must have been for legal purposes, but when Mollie Holcomb was mentioned it registered with everyone.

Mollie came into the family as the first girl after 4 boys and was received with great joy according to our mother.

With four brothers to do the outside chores, she at an early age became an exceptional housekeeper. Those weekend specials—desserts, salad, pies, and cakes—were wonderful and long to be remembered.

At an early age, she became our family musician and soon did the Church music for Dad. The main instrument in each case was a reed organ with pedal pumps, knee swells, and two or three extra racks, one for the music and the other for the kerosene lamps. The red cushioned, swivel stool was always a temptation for a boy to screw it up or down.

Mollie, after college days, became a music teacher at the Wesson school. Her husband attended Moody Bible Institute with a voice major. As a team they joined with her brother, Evangelist H. R. Holcomb for many months of Revival Meetings.

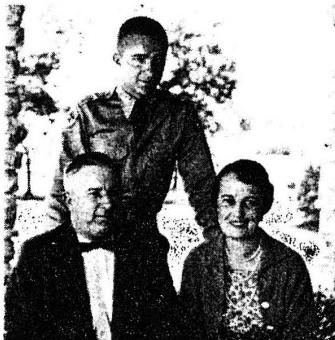
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Mollie was the first of our immediate family to become interested in the "Family Tree". She spent one summer vacation collecting material that has helped immensely in compiling these facts.

Mollie passed away March 24, 1914 and is buried in Quitman, Mississippi. In her family, there was only one child—a little daughter, Sunshine. By mutual agreement Sunshine's father permitted her to be reared by her Holcomb grandparents. This proved a great blessing to them and resulted in a close family tie that has been beautiful through the years.

Jim, Gay, Holly, Rowe, Maude, and Rusty all visited "Cris" during his last illness in a Meridian Hospital in May of 1961. Holly and Rowe returned later to attend his funeral.



MR. AND MRS. HUGH MCLEOD,  
AND THEIR SON, MILTON

Sunshine is happily married to Hugh M. McLeod, formerly of Mt. Olive, Mississippi. They now live in Houston, Texas. Their son, Milton, an only child, is in his third year at Texas A & M. Since he was born on the 4th of July in Virginia, we expect great things of him.

After Dad's death and through Sunshine's college days, she and mother lived together. Sunshine attended Mississippi Woman's College during the administration of W. E. Holcomb as President. She and Mother lived together in an apartment near the College Campus. They remained endeared to each other and all her vacations included "seeing Granny". Our children have called her "Aunt Shine" and perhaps will continue to do so.

Her piano playing always reminded us of Mollie's and in many other ways they resemble, even to little mannerisms.

Mr. and Mrs. McLeod were guests in our Church Worship Service in June of 1961 in Hazlehurst. After Service, a fellowship period was enjoyed which was too brief but wonderful.

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WILLIAM EDGAR HOLCOMB, SR.



THE WILLIAM EDGAR HOLCOMBS, I, II, AND III

Shall we call him Major, Doctor, or just "Ed"? He will answer to either one. Rotarians will likely say "Ed", College instructors "Doctor Holcomb" and others since World War II "Major Holcomb".

Ed has probably spoken to more religious meetings than any Layman in the State. His engagements, also, include Civic Clubs and school activities. He is the family "Statesman", having held several high positions under three different Governors. His native ability enhanced by experience eminently qualifies him for most any task. His employment includes Religious Education; banking; President of Mississippi Woman's College; State Director of O.P.A. and War Assets; State Commissioner of Public Welfare; and now Finance Officer of Division for the Blind.

He has served as Trustee of Tupelo Public Schools and Blue Mountain College, President of two local Rotary Clubs; the Governor of Memphis Rotary District; President of Mississippi Baptist Convention; Member of Baptist Executive Committee and of the Foreign Board, S.B.C. He is now deacon and Sunday School teacher in First Baptist Church, Jackson.

Edgar married Sunshine Kirkland, both then residing in Quitman. I remember Sunshine's father as the owner of a big Mercantile Store and Supt. of Sunday School. Her brother, my Sunday School teacher, gave me my first New Testament. Sunshine received fatal injury in a car accident in 1955 and is buried in the beautiful Lakewood Memorial Park, Jackson, Miss.

Three fine girls arrived before Ed, Jr. In honor of his arrival, the M. W. C. students took a half holiday. In the picture observe the "Three Edgar Holcombs". The radiance of father and son manifest their happy hopes and expectations.

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MRS. SUNSHINE KIRKLAND HOLCOMB AND ED, JR.



Standing: MRS. R. TURNER, LT. W. E.  
HOLCOMB, JR.

Seated: MRS. R. JONES, MRS. ROSS BASS

Betty is married to Dr. Ross Bass and they reside in Jackson. Note the fine group picture of their family in the "Feature Section".

Lt. W. E. Holcomb, Jr. with his wife, Betty Cabaniss Holcomb, and son Edgar, III are stationed in Texas. We recall attending Ed's Church wedding and the reception that followed along with Gay and James.

A few years ago, Edgar, Sr. married Mrs. Abbie Pegues of Tupelo and anticipated years of happiness but suffered her loss by death in 1960. Her grave is in Glenwood Cemetery, Tupelo, Mississippi.

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Abby married Rowland Jones. After World War II Service as an officer, he accepted a position with Sears in Jackson. Promotions have carried them to Laurel, Miss., Dothan, Ala., and now, Baton Rouge, La. Their lovely teenage daughter is shown in the "Feature Section".

Jean is Mrs. Richard Turner of Hattiesburg. Their son, Richard, Jr., is a recent graduate of Ole Miss. With several others, we enjoyed "coffee time" at Jean's recently following a luncheon given by the Faculty and Trustees of William Carey College honoring her Dad.

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**GAY HOLCOMB BOX**

Only superlatives can adequately describe Jim and Gay, and their two sons, and two grandsons.

Their welcome is the warmest, their food the tastiest, their coffee the strongest, their TV the clearest, their Patio the nicest, their porch the coolest, their flowers the prettiest, their boat the swiftest, their well the flowingest, their unexpected company the surest, their den the newest, their dogs the biggest, and they stay up the latest of most anybody anywhere. AND EVERYBODY LIKES TO VISIT THE BOX FAMILY. But, if you go on Sunday you will likely have to teach her Sunday School Class.

Jim served for many years as Master Mechanic for the Gaylord Company of Bogalusa, though he and Gay as young people met in Quitman. Since his retirement, Jim's hobby shop, secluded in the pines near the house and equipped with power tools and other fine equipment including a telephone, is a marvel. The things he has made are even more marvelous. Most of the kin possess and treasure some token of his craftsmanship, and all of them agree no finer "in-law" ever lived than Jim.

In reference to marvels, Gay has some of her own. One is her deep freeze. She can always come up with something special and just what you secretly hoped she would serve. Another is her Church attendance. Through a quarter of a century with Mother there in need of extra care, she kept her record exceptional in the Service of her Lord. Her brothers will remain indebted to her and her family all our days.



JAMES A. BOX, JR.  
with "TED"



MR. AND MRS. J. A. BOX

James is adept in a more varied area than anyone we know. He designs, constructs, and does creative thinking far beyond the average. He bowls, golfs, does water sports, and is now doing artistic painting—besides being a Baptist Deacon. Since World War II, he has held a responsible position with Gaylord Co. and has spoken at National Paper Manufacturing Conventions.

His dogs are so highly pedigreed, I had to produce a "Holcomb Coat of Arms" before gaining permission to use this picture. Like the rest of the family, they

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BENTON, SALLIE, BILL, AND BEN

ful as she is pretty. She kept the "home fires burning" while he was serving Uncle Sam in Korea. They, now, have their home not very far from "Mother and Daddy" in Bogalusa where Benton is employed by the Louisiana State Forestry Department.

are hospitable, too — they sound the alert when your car approaches and just as enthusiastically bid you adieu.

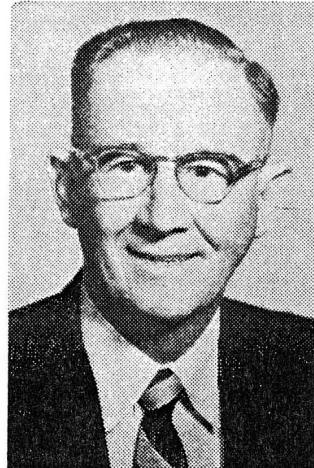
In this picture, "Ben" (Benton Holcomb Box, Jr.) is the oldest of the two boys. Benton, Sr. went the L. S. U. route and is quick to remind his Mississippi kin of the fact. His outdoor interest led to a Forestry Major and Master Degree. In Church life, he is the General Sunday School Superintendent of a large and growing organization. Sallie is just as wonderful as she is pretty.



HAPPY GRANDPARENTS

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ROWE CONWELL HOLCOMB



REV. ROWE C. HOLCOMB



MRS. MAUDE E. FARRAR HOLCOMB

This is written near Thanksgiving Day, and I'm very grateful for an era of big families. The reason is obvious, it made this Album necessary for vital statistics and, also, accounts for me, an eighth child, being here to become your scribe. My two special distinctions of doubtful merit are, I am the first 20th Century Holcomb and I was born in Poplarville, a small town almost as well known as the State Capital. But two honors, of which I am proud, were the privilege to appear on Centennial Programs of two Churches which Dad served as Pastor—The Quitman Baptist Church and the Wesson Baptist Church.

From Quitman High to Mississippi College, to Mississippi State, to Sherman Business College, and to Southwestern Seminary was a long journey. However, like Israel's journey to the Promised Land there were compensations. Among them, the opportunity to live with Luther and family for some months, and with Harmon and family for about three years. These two Preacher Brothers along with Dad, Dr. M. E. Dodd of Shreveport and Dr. C. E. Matthews of Fort Worth, have been my only pastors. I consider all five among God's Great Men.

Some happy years with W. C. Nabors Co. terminated with two important decisions. One was marriage to Mary Franklin and the other was to do full time Religious Work. After two years as the first Brotherhood Secretary of Louisiana Baptist, Mary and I entered the Seminary. Mary Gaye, the only child of the marriage, was born in Paris, Texas. As I gained a daughter, I lost her mother. The great gap in home life was later filled for a decade by Wilma Malone, granddaughter of a pioneer preacher in Western Arkansas and Indian Territory. There were no children to this marriage. Most of the entire period was spent in Kosciusko, Mississippi, coming there from a pastorate in Idabel, Oklahoma. My only other pastorate was in Electra, Texas during Seminary Days.

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MARY GAYE, CARLA, & R. C.

Early in 1949, the Hazlehurst First Baptist Church was seeking a Pastor and found me. At the time, I was seeking a wife and found Maude E. Farrar in Tupelo working for Harmon at the First Baptist Church. A dozen years of Church promotional work under Harmon's guidance is equivalent to a super-post-graduate course and her experience dealing with plans and methods has been of inestimable value to the writer. In addition, she came to know all the Holcombs and even now I believe they come to visit her, not me. Any compliment I receive from her is when I act like one of the other Holcombs.

We came to Hazlehurst immediately and have had a dozen happy years with each other and with the wonderful people of the town and county. When Mary Gaye finished Mississippi College and found employment in Fort Worth with Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, we had a lonely house. Then Rowe, Jr. came to bless our home. He is called "Rusty" Holcomb by all in this area, but most will vouch that he is the opposite of his nickname. We think his Holcomb traits are along the line of his Uncle Holly and Granny.

Mary Gaye, now Mrs. R. C. Eickler, Jr., is employed with two full time jobs. One is mother of Carla, born in Hawaii and now a year old. The other is office work with Southern Baptist Executive Committee in Nashville, Tenn. R. C. is Minister of Music at Edgefield Baptist Church in Nashville and is taking graduate work at Peabody with Music Major.

With limited space, I can't tell you near all about Maude, Rusty, or MY ONLY GRANDCHILD, Carla.

So, we invite you to visit us in Hazlehurst in typical Southern TV Style "Ya'll come."

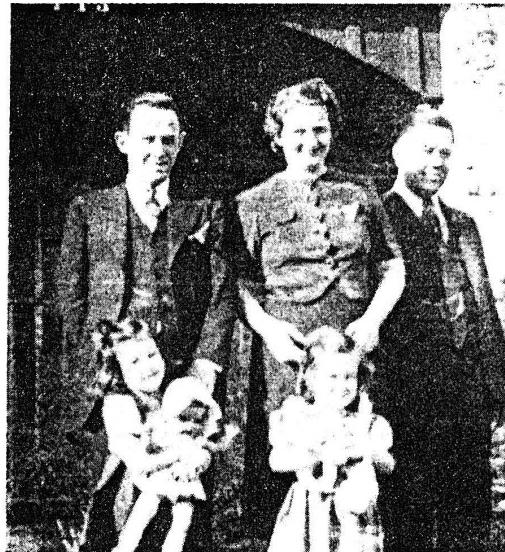


ROWE C. HOLCOMB, JR.  
"Rusty"

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WILLIAM BENTON HOLCOMB, JR.



ROWE, MARY GAYE, MARY, MARALYN,  
AND W. B. HOLCOMB, JR.

(This picture was taken in Tupelo in front of the residence of the W. B. Holcombs in 1938. Mary Gaye and Maralyn were 3 years of age.)

from M. C., he had a year in the University of Texas, studying Law. He never pursued the course to completion—Depression Years came, making it necessary for him to find employment. He was an excellent Salesman, proving his worth with Nabors Trailers, Mansfield, then going to Tupelo to be associated with Edgar in the W. E. Holcomb Lumber Co. Later he became a member of the Pegues Firm.

His companion, Mary Pegues, was reared in Tupelo. She was the only girl in a well known and distinguished family of three. As a High School senior, she visited Mississippi College as a guest of her brother. Along with many other "Choctaws", I met this most beautiful, red-haired, young lady, never dreaming she would one day be a member of our family.

We have a feeling this talented couple never lived to reach their potential greatness. They are buried in Glenwood Cemetery, Tupelo, Mississippi.

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Willie B. or "Buck" as he was known at different periods of his life, was the 9th child in the family, yet was named W. B., Jr. In many ways, he resembled his Dad.

"Buck" was a popular student at Co-Lin (Wesson) where he finished his High School work. He was even more popular at Mississippi College during his four years there. In his Senior year, he was elected Editor - in - chief of the *Tribesman* (their Annual). He was a cheerleader and team manager along the way and his interest in sports never dimmed. Many Tupelo business men took "coffee breaks" when Buck took his, in order to enjoy his wit and hear his human interest stories. He never ceased to have something new.

Following his graduation

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MR. and MRS. JAMES M. HUSSEY, MARLA and SUSIE GAY

You are not seeing four children, just a "before and after" of the same two little sisters. Granddaughters of W. B. Holcomb, Junior.

James, a native of Tupelo and a graduate of Ole Miss, is now employed in Jackson. He and Maralyn have built a new home in a new area on Sun Drive. She has promised me a map showing the way to her house from down town!

The two children remind me of Maralyn and Mary Gaye shown on the opposite page. W. B. and Mary exchanged visits with us that year. They came to Idabel, Oklahoma bringing Maralyn and her "maid". We had a wonderful time, fishing some but mostly sight seeing among the native Indians.

When Christmas time came again, the girls exchanged gifts. Mary Gaye received a "Mammy Doll" made in Memphis and true to character represented, and Maralyn received an "Indian Doll" made by the older pupils of an all Indian School.

Maralyn and family frequently visit "Gay Acres" where the welcome is warm and the devotion mutual. I saw her a few weeks ago as she and family came out to the Jackson Airport to tell her Uncle Luther bye, as he returned to Dallas.

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HENRY AND JAN HOLCOMB, DALLAS, BILL DAVIS, HOUSTON

*Three Page Section of Grand and Great*



DICK TURNER, JR.  
Hattiesburg, Mississippi



GENE HOLCOMB, JR.  
Tupelo, Mississippi

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SIDNEY SUE SMITH, DICK, JR. AND JEAN SMITH, LOUISIANA



DR. & MRS. ROSS BASS & children, RICK, ROBERT, & ELIZABETH, JACKSON



The Oregonian HOLCOMBS: HAZEL, SUE,  
CANDACE, ROBERT, and JEANNIE

ROWLAND JONES,  
Baton Rouge, La.

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AN "ALL GIRLS" PAGE



CARLA EICKLER,  
Nashville, Tenn.



PAMELA HOLCOMB  
Rochester, N. Y.



MARY SUE HOLCOMB  
Jeffersonville, Ind.



MARLA HUSSEY,  
Jackson, Miss.

SUSIE GAY HUSSEY,  
Jackson, Miss.

A READY REFERENCE:

	Our Family	Our Children	Our Grandchildren	Pictures of 5 Generations
Harmon	4	7	4	Grandparents
Luther	2	3	2	Parents
Holly	2	5	9	Children
Mollie	1	1	18	Grandchildren
Edgar	4	6	27	Great Grand- children
Gay	2	2	14	In-Laws
Rowe	2	1	4	Uncle's family
W. B., Jr.	1	2	1	Reunion
Eugene	0	0	2	Cover Pictures
				81

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SACRED MEMORIES



ED and ABBIE



ROWE, MOTHER, MARY WILMA and MARY GAYE



ED and ABBIE      ROWE, MOTHER, MARY WILMA and MARY GAYE

Only Edgar, Mary Gaye, and I can properly evaluate these pictures as to the depth of their meaning, and we only in the light of God's Will.

\* \* \*

FAMILY RECORD

BIRTHS	DEATHS
A. Gardner Holcomb ..... 1786	— 1860, A. Gardner Holcomb
James M. Holcomb ..... 1833	— 1919, James Madison Holcomb
Eliza. J. Holcomb ..... 1842	— 1920, Eliza. J. Holcomb
W. B. Holcomb, Sr. ..... 1860	— 1930, Wm. Benton Holcomb, Sr.
Mrs. W. B. Holcomb, Sr. ..... 1863	— 1959, Mrs. William Benton Holcomb, Sr.
Eugene E. Holcomb ..... 1884	— 1904, Eugene E. Holcomb
Mollie Holcomb Criscoe ..... 1889	— 1914, Mollie Holcomb Criscoe
Mary Franklin Holcomb ..... 1904	— 1935, Mary Franklin Holcomb
Mamie McGee Holcomb ..... 1889	— 1941, Mamie McGee Holcomb
Wilma Malone Holcomb ..... 1907	— 1947, Wilma Malone Holcomb
W. B. Holcomb, Jr. ..... 1905	— 1948, W. B. Holcomb, Jr.
Mary Pegues Holcomb ..... 1902	— 1954, Mary Pegues Holcomb
Sunshine Kirkland Holcomb ..... 1896	— 1955, Sunshine K. Holcomb
Harmon R. Holcomb, Sr. ..... 1876	— 1958, Harmon R. Holcomb, Sr.
Abbie Pegues Holcomb ..... 1905	— 1960, Abbie Pegues Holcomb
Willie Jenkins Holcomb ..... 1888	— 1961, Willie Jenkins Holcomb
R. L. Criscoe ..... 1890	— 1961, R. L. Criscoe

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**VERITAS ET FORTITUDO**

The opening and closing symbol of this booklet is the same, "A lighted candle" and a birthday signifying the passing of time. Rowe, Jr., the youngest and perhaps the last grandchild is still "musing as the fire burns".

This picture was made April 14, 1959 on Granny's last birthday. She was 96 and Rowe, Jr. three—what a span in time and in the manner of living!



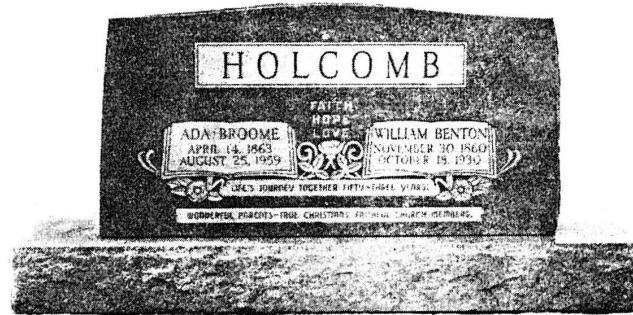
**GRANNY'S Candle-Power was Great**

With this final picture, it is time to close the "Family Album of William Benton Holcomb". The material is at last ready for the printer. It is Dad's birthday. He was born one hundred and one years ago.

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CITY CEMETERY



QUITMAN, MISSISSIPPI

*"THE BEST ARISTOCRACY OF WHICH MAN CAN  
BOAST IS A LONG LINE OF HEALTHY,  
HONEST, AND INDUSTRIOUS ANCESTORS."*